Bird strike

Due to the increased urbanisation and industrialisation bird hazard to aircraft is on the increase. The steps taken to avoid bird strike accidents are:—

(i) Airfield Environment Management Committees have been set up under the Chairmanship of the concerned Collector/Distt. Magistrate to take necessary steps to keep the environment around airfields safe for flying.

(ii) Bird hazard combat teams have been established on an experimental basis at 5 selected airfields. These teams report bird activity to pilots and also kill/scare away the birds.

(iii) Use of bird watchers at airfields to keep pilots informed about bird activity in the arfield circuit areas.

(iv) Publicity drive by means of radio, TV newspapers and posters is being undertaken to educate the general public about bird hazard to aircraft and necessity to maintain clean environment around airfields.

(v) The State Govenments and local bodies are being regularly contacted to take steps for sanitisation of areas outside the perimeter of Defence airfields.

Delay in appointment of judges

1636. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the conferences Chief Justices have expressed a strong view point about the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High courts in the existing vacancies if so, what is the position of vacancies; by when Government propose to fill up these vacancies, so that the pendency may be cleared in the shortest possible time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): As on 1st March 1988, there were 9 vacancies in the authorised strength of 26 Judges in the Supreme Court, and 65 vacancies in the total sanctioned strength of 443 Judges in various High Courts of the country.

2. The Coneference of Chief Justice held in December, 1987 emphasised filling up of the vacancies of Judges as expeditiously as possible after effective consultation with the concerned authorities.

3. The Government have reiterated the instructions prescribing the time schedule wherein the Chief Justices of High Courts and Chief Ministers and Governors of States have to send their recommendations for filling in posts of Judges in High Courts, and have requested them to adhere to it so that the vacancies are filled in expeditiously.

4. Selection of Judges involves deliberation in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities and it a continuous process. It is not possible to indica any define time for filling up vacanc of Judges in the Supreme Court and Hi, Courts.

Elimination of Intermediate and short range missiles

1637. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what further steps have been taken by Government as a follow up of the recent treaty on elimination of intermediate and short range missiles signed at the Washington Summit between big two nuclear powers and towards signing of treaty between nuclear powers for elimination of all nuclear weapons and prevention of production and development of nuclear weapons aimed at establishing permanent world peace free from nuclear weapons; and

(b) how far the Big powers are nearer to signing of such a treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The Government of India welcomed the INF

Treaty as a first step towards the elimination of all nuclear weapons. In the Stockholm Declaration adopted at the Summit of the Six Nation Initiative, in which our Prime Minister participated, the six leaders called for the complete elimination of techtical nuclear weapons and the signing of a treaty on a 50 per cent reduction of strategic nuclear weapons leading to the ultimate elimination of all nuclear weapons. In the statement they also referred to the objective of creating a nuclear weapon-free and non-violent world.

(b) The United States and the Soviet Union are holding bilateral negotiations in Geneva on a draft treaty on a 50 per cent reduction of strategic nuclear weapons. This will be the major item to be taken up at the Summit of the leaders of the two countries to be held in Moscow later this year.

1638. [*Transferred to the 15th March*, 1988].

Nature of cases handled by Lok Adalats

1639. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
DR. RATNAKAR PENDEY:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made so far in different States and Union Territories to organise Lok Adalats, indicating number of cases disposed off during the year 1986;

(b) what is the nature of cases handled by Lok Adalats; and

(c) whether simple cases relating to tenancy have been or are proposed to be brought within the purview of these courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) While most of the States are organising Lok Adalats, States like Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Utter Pradesh and Orissa are organising Lok Adalats on regular basis, as regards the Union Territories, Lok Adalats are being organised at present only in Delhi and Pondicherry. As per information available with the Committee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes, 571 Lok Adalats have been organised in 1986 in the country where 3,48,876 cases were settled.

(b) Most of the cases pertain to motor accident claims, family/matrimonial disputes, land pattas, labour, railway claims, criminal proceedings under Section 125 and other minor offences under Cr. P.C. and some compoundable criminal cases.

(c) In Rajasthan some such cases have already been handled. Efforts are made to take up simple tenancy cases also wherever possible at the Lok Adalats.

Growth rate in the Seventh Plan

1640. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) what are the General growth rate, Industrial growth rate and Agricultural growth rate in the Seventh Five Year Plan till now as per the Mid Term appraisal;

(b) the extent upto which these growth rates have conformed to targeted growth rates;

(c) what are the reasons for the short fall in the attainment of growth rates, if any, targeted in the plan; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take for attaining growth rates as stipulated in the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI). (a) According to the quick estimates released by CSO, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost showed in growth rate of 4.8 per cent in 1985-86 and 4 per cent in 1986-87 at 1980-81 prices. The growth rate in agricultural sector including forestry, fishing is estimated at 0.3 per cent in 1985-86 and (—) 2.6 per cent in 1986-87. The manufacturing sector registered an estimated growth rate of 8.8 per cent in 1985-86 and 9 per cent in 1986-87.